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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 92 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
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MYSURU Tuesday 26th May 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Rain Wreaks Havoc

A huge tree that was uprooted behind Kamakshi Hospital last night.

- Uproots trees, damages electric poles, snaps power lines
- KRS water level stands at 92 ft.; no drinking water crisis
- Rainfall due to extensive heat; showers for 2 more days

Mysuru, May 26 (MTY, KS & BCT)- Last night, Mysuru witnessed heavy rainfall in different parts of the city. The Meteorological (MET) Department has predicted rainfall till May 30. The MET Department further stated that the sky would be partly cloudy with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers.

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds left several trees uprooted and reports of water-logging and overflowing drains also came to light. Rains in peak summer is a rare phenomenon and apart from the cooling effect, the showers have also brought some good news on the drinking water front.

According to the weekly data updated on the website of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) on May 22, water level at the KRS Dam stood at 93.26 ft. while the maximum level is 124.80 ft.

(See RAIN on page 6)

Tiger mauls shepherd to death near Hunsur

Jagadeesh

Hanagodu, May 26 (Mahesh & BCT)- A 65-year-old shepherd was mauled to death and carried away by a tiger on the fringes of Nagarahole National Park near Hunsur yesterday. Forest Department and the local tribals, who had launched combing operations last evening, found the half-eaten body inside the jungle this noon.

Jagadeesh, a resident of Neralakuppe B. Haadi on the fringes of the forests, had been to graze sheep as his usual practice. He left home yesterday morning and did not return to his village but the goats and sheep returned to their sheds.

(See TIGER on page 2)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Devout Pranams to Parama Pujya
SRI GANAPATHY SACHCHIDANANDA SWAMIJI
Datta Peetham, Mysuru

A Spiritual Guru who surrounds his disciples like a subtle fragrance is 78 today.
Wishing many divine returns of the day.
Seeking spiritual master's blessings. — Devotees

Tiger mauls shepherd to death near Hunsur

Pic. 1: ***Victim Jagadeesh's wife and others in a grief-stricken mood.*** *Pic. 2:* ***The umbrella used by the deceased tribal.*** *Pic.3:* ***Forest staff and elephants who took part in the tiger combing operation***

(Continued from page 1)

The family went on a search but could not find Jagadeesh. On searching the areas around Handihalla, the normal place where he used to graze livestock, the family members and villagers found his pair of slippers, umbrella, a sickle and a stick that was regularly carried by Jagadeesh. They also found bloodstains near the umbrella.

Realising that the tiger could have dragged Jagadeesh into the woods, the villagers alerted the Forest Department officials who launched a combing operation last evening. The combing operations were led by Dasara elephant Balarama and five other elephants including Ganesha, Chandrika and Bheema along with RFO Hanumantharaju. The Department staff, however, had to abandon the combing as it rained heavily last evening along with hailstones. The operation resumed this morning.

Jagadeesh's half-eaten body was found inside the forest near Department Quarters this noon. The remains were spotted by local tribals who have immense knowledge about tiger movements. In all, over 100 persons were part of the search operation.

On the prowl since 5 days

The tiger was on the prowl in the area since the last 4 to 5 days and the Department had warned the villagers not to venture inside the jungle or the nearby areas. Workers, who were laying Railway track fencing along the forest two days back, had noticed the feline and had abandoned their work as fear had gripped the area.

The Special Tiger Task Force (STTF) had installed camera traps in various places to capture the movement of the big cats. The STTF installed the cameras after finding pug marks in the villages. The cameras can capture images at a distance up to 50 metres and can record 3,000 images at a time. The tiger that was on the prowl was captured in these cameras, Department sources told *Star of Mysore*.'

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve Director Mahesh Kumar, ACF Prasanna Kumar, Hunsur Rural Inspector Shivakumar and RFO Ravindra camped at the place.

Wife blind

Jagadeesh's wife Gangamma has lost her eyesight due to old age. The couple led a life by rearing livestock. "All the cooking and household work was done by my husband and I cannot even see an object just in front of my eyes," she rued.

Devaraja, Siddarthanagar Police Stations in dilapidated condition

Police personnel on duty risking their lives

Mysuru, May 26 (MK&KS)- Police personnel, who are the frontline Corona Warriors, are now risking their lives while performing their duties at Devaraja and Siddarthanagar Police Stations as both the buildings are in a dilapidated condition.

The buildings of Devaraja (Law & Order and Crime) and Siddarthanagar (Traffic) Police Stations are very much dilapidated and may collapse sooner or later if the rains continue to pour like last night.

The roof and walls of both the Police Stations have developed cracks and algae are formed on the walls as they absorb water during rains. Electrical appliances like lights and fans are mounted on the walls and roof and as they have absorbed water, there are chances of a short circuit which may result in fatalities due to electrocution.

Siddarthanagar Traffic Police Station, located near Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna Circle (Kurubarahalli Circle), which has Nazarbad, Siddarthanagar, Udayagiri, Gayathripuram, Kyathamaranahalli, Chamundi Hill and other places in its jurisdiction is the worst place during rains as water gets stagnant in the parking lot making the entire place slushy. Rain water leaks from the roofs of both the Police Stations and water droplets would fall on the records, documents and computers causing a lot of problems to the Police personnel on duty. Police personnel are seen removing water from the premises every time it rains.

Meanwhile, Siddarthanagar Traffic Inspector Basavaraju said that the dilapidated condition of the building has been brought to the notice of the higher Police officials and preparations are being made for the construction of the new building. The space adjacent to the Police Station has been identified for the new building and measurements have been taken, he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda said that he would inspect the dilapidated Police Stations and bring it to the notice of City Police Commissioner for further action.

States can't hire workers from UP without permission: Yogi Adityanath

New Delhi, May 26 (Agencies)- Miffed over the treatment of migrant workers, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said States will now need to seek permission from his Government before engaging workers from Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Addressing a webinar on Sunday, Adityanath said his Government will lay down stringent conditions for ensuring social security of workers from the State who are hired by other States.

"If any State wants manpower, the State Government will have to guarantee social security and insurance of the workers. Without our permission they will not be able to take our people. Because the kind of treatment that was meted out [to UP residents]. Seeing that, we have taken the people's social security in our hand," he added.

"I have instructed my officers that there should be a Commission made to get them employment within Uttar Pradesh itself," Yogi Adityanath said. The CM said all migrant workers who have returned to the State were being registered and their skills were being mapped. Any State or entity interested in hiring them will need to take care of their social, legal and monetary rights.

Since the slow easing of the lockdown started, States like Karnataka has been trying to retain the migrant labourers, saying they would be needed once construction work and industrial activities start. There have been reports that Tamil Nadu has also been trying to stop the exodus of migrant workers by keeping them comfortable, even though many industries have not been able to pay their salaries.

'Migrants were treated shabbily without food, water and accommodation'

Yogi Adityanath

"We will stand with migrant workers wherever they go," he added. So far, more than 20 lakh migrants have returned to Uttar Pradesh from other States. Since the lockdown started in March, people have been pouring into Uttar Pradesh by trains or buses or illegally by trucks. Many more are estimated to have returned on foot or personal modes of transport like auto-rickshaws.

He also took a dig at Opposition leaders for the migrant crisis. "During the lockdown, if those who now raise slogans for the poor had honestly cared about workers, then migration could have been stopped. This did not happen. No facilities were given. At several places, electricity connections were cut, so people had to migrate." he said.

VOICE OF THE READER

Kudos to Warriors of Womenfolk

Sir,

I would like to congratulate both Manasa Rao and Dr. Sagarika Nithyanand for their brilliant idea of helping the women in these tough times with Menstrual Hygiene Kits. I would also like to congratulate *Star of Mysore* for publishing a full page article (The 'Saviours' of Womenfolk: Two young Mysureans distribute 14,000 Menstrual Hygiene Kits in '*SOM*' dated May 24, 2020) on menstruation, which is still thought as taboo in the 20th century.

This article is an eye-opener for many people like me, who don't know the trouble women go through apart from all their other selfless acts. It's saddening to know that women turn towards dried cow dung and coconut husks during their periods.

I would like to urge the Government or the Departments concerned to issue free sanitary pads to the poor at least. Also, the Government in continuation to the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' can install special dustbins in public places as suggested by the NGO 'Reachout India.'

Also, we see that the medical shops wrap the sanitary pads in paper or black cover as if using sanitary pads is a crime. It's high time we stop this practice and embrace menstruation as normal process of a woman's life.

We live in a society where people break coconuts on roads in the pretext of black magic and the poor women use the coconut husks during periods! What an irony! Hope the taboo around menstruation can end some day!

— Arun

Mysuru
24.5.2020

Soon students can pursue

two-degree courses simultaneously through different modes: UGC

New Delhi, May 26 (Agencies)- Students will soon be able to pursue two-degree courses simultaneously in same or different streams, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) giving its nod to a proposal in this regard, according to officials.

However, one of the two degrees will have to be pursued through regular mode and the other has to be through Online Distance Learning (ODL).

"The proposal was approved in the recent Commission meeting for simultaneous dual degrees for students in India, allowing students to complete courses in the same or different streams at the same time. One of the two degrees, however, has to be through regular mode and the other has to be through Online Distance Learning," UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain said.

He said: "an official notification will be issued soon in this regard." The UGC, last year, had set up a panel headed by its Vice-Chairman, Bhushan Patwardhan, to examine the issue of pursuing two-degree programmes simultaneously from the same University or different Universities either through distance mode, online mode or part-time mode.

However, this is not the first time the Commission was examining the issue. The UGC had set up a Committee in 2012 as well and consultations were held on the same but ultimately the idea was junked.

One degree has to be in regular mode, the other through online-distance learning

The 2012 Committee headed by then Vice-Chancellor of the Hyderabad University, Furqan Qamar, had recommended that a student enrolled in a degree programme under regular mode may be allowed to pursue a maximum of one additional degree programme simultaneously under open or distance mode from the same or a different University.

"However, two-degree programmes under regular mode may not be allowed simultaneously as it may create logistic, administrative and academic problems. A student pursuing a degree programme under regular mode may be allowed to pursue a maximum of one certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, PG diploma programme simultaneously either in regular or open and distance mode in the same University or from other institutions," the panel report had then said.

According to UGC officials, "the Commission had then sought comments of the statutory Councils on the Committee's report and the responses received did not endorse the idea of allowing students to pursue multiple degree programmes simultaneously. Hence the plan did not take off."

Not satisfied with boxers' home training: Chief Coach Kuttappa

Wife and daughter sad but can't wait to re-start National Camp, says Mysuru-based Dronacharya Awardee

C.A. Kuttappa

Coach C.A. Kuttappa with boxer Ashish Kumar *(Courtesy- BFI)*

New Delhi, May 26 (Agencies)- India's Chief Men's Boxing Coach C.A. Kuttappa says he cannot wait for the National Camp to resume on June 10 after the COVID-19-forced disruption as he is not satisfied with the Olympic-bound pugilists' fitness training at home.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) plans to bring its Tokyo-bound boxers — both men and women — together in Patiala amid strict COVID-19 safety guidelines, which bar access to ring and human sparring for now, from June 10.

C.A. Kuttappa, a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru city, was nominated for the Dronacharya Award-2018 in Boxing. He hails from Chenanda family. In a conversation with reporters, Kuttappa spoke about the challenges of training in the post-COVID-19 world, admitting that he doesn't know how it would be but is nonetheless looking forward to understanding "the unknown."

"They have been training at home but frankly, I am not satisfied. They are doing well with fitness training I guess but things like diet control cannot be managed at home," Kuttappa said. "You need to be at the camp for these things to be monitored," he said.

Boxers eager but a challenge

The decision to re-start the camp next month was taken at a video- conference between the Olympic-bound boxers, coaches and the officialdom on Saturday. Kuttappa was part of that meeting. "They (the boxers) sounded eager but obviously, these are challenging times. Let's see how it goes. I think I will be able to give a better insight once we actually get started," he said.

The nine boxers, who have qualified for the Tokyo Games are Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Satish Kumar (+91kg), M.C. Mary Kom (51kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg).

Post-COVID scenario

All of them have been training at their respective homes ever since the National Camps came to a halt in mid-March owing to the virus outbreak. Besides the bar on entering the ring and human sparring, boxers have also been told to use their personal equipment for all forms of training as part of the safety protocol to negate the threat of the virus. They will be offered cover for COVID in their medical insurance, as per the SOP made by the BFI.

The boxers and the Federation will also have to sign consent forms acknowledging the risk of resumption before being allowed back at the SAI Centre. "The camp, once it starts, will be an isolated zone. Those who come in will not be allowed to go anywhere outside. Nobody, apart from coaches and medical staff, will have access to these guys and all protocols will be followed," Kuttappa said.

Asked if training targets can be met in a camp where the ring cannot be accessed and human sparring is prohibited, Kuttappa said he is hopeful of some positive results. "We are not going to do any intense sessions because no tournament is coming up. We are not immediately preparing for anything. But re-starting the training would mean that we are ready when things normalise," he explained.

"The idea is to ensure that boxers are in the best shape for when the action resumes. And being in a camp would make that easier. Monitoring them would also be easier," he said. The ongoing lockdown gave the Mysuru-based Armyman a holiday at home that he hadn't taken for "more than two decades." The Dronacharya awardee said it has been rejuvenating.

Long stay at home

"This was the first time in 24 years that I stayed at home for such a long time," said Kuttappa, a former boxer, who is credited for shaping the likes of Olympic bronze-medallist Vijender Singh. "My wife and daughter are a bit sad that I will be going back next month. But that's part of life, I can't wait to re-start the camp," he added.

Having spent the better part of the last two months playing carom and badminton with his nine-year-old daughter Yudhi, Kuttappa said he is now looking forward to training the "boys", who are his family for most of the year under normal circumstances.

Obituary

B.N. Ramanuja Iyengar

Mysuru, May 26- B.N. Ramanuja Iyengar (87), a retired Railway employee, breathed his last at 7 am today (May 26) at his residence in Kuvempunagar, due to age-related problems.

He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of family members, relatives and friends. He was actively involved in Ganabharathi as its Secretary for 25 years and as the President for one term. Dr. C.G. Narasimhan, Ganabharathi President, is his brother-in-law.

Last rites were held at 11 am at the Harishchandra Ghat, foot of Chamundi Hill.

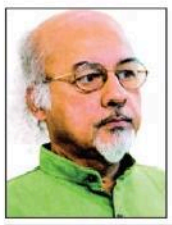
Saleha Asma Shaheen

Saleha Asma Shaheen (68), a retired Head Mistress (wife of late Altaf Ahmed Khan Ghori and daughter of late G. M. Khan Ghori), passed away due to a massive heart attack at Al Khober, Saudi Arabia, on May 25.

A resident of Bengaluru, she leaves behind a daughter, a son and a host of relatives and friends.

She was the sister-in-law of Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, Physician and '*SOM*' Columnist.

Ready for a Grave New World ?



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

Virus cannot beat humour. A fun story circulating on the internet is titled "Class of 2025." A delightfully strict school teacher calls out her class attendance ... Quarantine Joshi, Lockdown Singh Rathore, Covid Awasthi, Corona Pal Singh, Social Distance Singh, Mask Mahto, Gloves Gaekwad, Wuhan Bhadoria. When Wuhan does not respond, she warns: "Wuhan! You and Covid are very naughty. Get out of my class." She admits in motherly style that her favourite student is Atmanirbhar Kelawala.

Humour helps us survive man-made catastrophes. But it does not erase reality. The reality we face today is that Coronavirus is going to change the world and our concepts of living. The lifestyle changes that have already become routine — wearing masks, avoiding crowds — are by no means temporary adjustments to cope with a temporary problem. That, from now on, is life. Pity those who have to cough or sneeze. They might do it with utmost care, but others will see it as anti-social and unforgivable.

Of course some things never change. Governments never admit, for example, that they are liable to make mistakes. All Governments believe that they know best and that their actions are wise. Demonetisation? To this day the Narendra Modi school of thought is convinced about its correctness. Corona lockdown? To this day the aforesaid school of thought sees nothing wrong in announcing the lockdown on 4 hours notice.

To this sense of righteousness and infallibility Nirmala Sitharaman brings a stamp of authority that only she can. She likes to do things her way. Remember her carrying budget papers not in the traditional budget briefcase but in a cloth bundle? To give details of the Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package, she took five days to explain five aspects of the new policy. Stretching things out that long, she must have thought that people would lose track of things and she could get away by doing the opposite of what she was saying.

She was saying that atmanirbharta, self-reliance, was the heart of the Government's economic policies. But what she was doing was handing things over to foreign private sector — reliance on others, not on self. India's defence itself is no exception; 74 percent of defence manufacture can now be owned by foreigners, instead of 49 percent as before. The 20-lakh crore turned out to be a chimera. As news reports said, few welcomed the concept behind it while some felt ignored by the package. That was the sum total of Sitharaman's concept of "new horizons of growth, unleashing new investment, boosting production and creating jobs."

It was no surprise, then, that the march of the Coronavirus was not checked by any of the actions taken by the Government. In fact the virus spread during the lockdown because decision-makers ignored technical advice. Experts had proposed the scaling up of testing, getting hospitals ready, working out guidelines and protocols. As they saw it, lockdown was not even the most important solution to the problem. Yet the Government put all emphasis on lockdown, perhaps for its drama effect.

According to the COVID-19 Task Force, even the implementation of lockdown was unscientifically done. By the time lockdown was given a third extension it was clear that the initiative had failed to produce the desired results because it did not take into account the suggestions of the Task Force. The net result was that, despite keeping 1.3 billion people under lockdown, India recorded more than one lakh confirmed cases, becoming the COVID epicentre in the Asia-Pacific region, overtaking China itself.

Heavier has been the political price. In any country, lockdown is an opportunity for single-party, single-leader ambitious to rise. In the name of protecting public interests, leaders find it easy to promote private interests. The Modi Government, already given to concentration of power in one leader, is now in a situation that allows still more authoritarianism. Remember, there is no Parliament, no formal channels to provide space for alternate voices. Those in power are firmly entrenched.

To project the head of Government as a messiah is useful. But it is unlikely to help us meet the unprecedented challenges that have suddenly come up as threats. The economy is in tatters because social as well as business factors have changed — for ever. Travel, for example, is a dead industry and 70 percent of hotels in India stare at closure in the next month or two. It's a grave new world which needs a new kind of leadership and a new kind of vision. Where are they?

Birth in berth: 30 babies born on board Shramik Special trains in May-2020

'Lockdown Yadav', 'Corona Kumari' are some of the names given to new-borns

New Delhi, May 26 (Agencies)- Good news from Shramik Specials or Train of Fortune as over 30 babies were born on board since the beginning of May, providing some of the migrant workers a tinge of joy amid all the odds they are facing trying to reach home during lockdown 4.0. Be it 23-year-old Sangeeta or 27-year-old Madhu, who were stranded due to the lockdown, often without food, water or any resources that pregnancy demands for almost two months, boarding the migrant special trains was a sigh of relief.

Last Monday, nine-month pregnant Sangeeta boarded a Shramik Special train from Bengaluru for her hometown in Uttar Pradesh. On board, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy with the help of her co-passengers.

Soon after, she was provided with medicines and, when she reached, a team of doctors was waiting for her with the necessary supplies. The Bengaluru Police even shared a photo of the baby sent to them by the couple.

On Friday, 27-year-old Madhu Kumari delivered a baby during her journey home to Uttar Pradesh. When she went into labour, the Railway staff present in the train informed the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

Mamta Yadav's baby.

The baby was born before the train reached Jhansi. The woman received medical care at the Station. "We are keenly aware that our staff at times need to act as the situation demands and they do so," Railways spokesperson R.D. Bajpai said. "We are proud to say that all the babies born on these trains are healthy and their mothers are doing well. We are very happy that we could help them."

However, perhaps, the first baby to be delivered on board these trains was Mamta Yadav's child who came to the world on May 8 while his mother was travelling to Bihar from Gujarat alone. Officials say the train left the Jamnagar Railway Station at 8 pm. Mamta, 35, began experiencing labour pain around midnight. Her compartment was turned into a labour room of sorts with other passengers moving out.

A team of doctors and Railway staff supervised Mamta Yadav's condition as she delivered a healthy baby girl, whom her co-passengers instantly christened "Corona Kumari", the officials said. "We have a well-oiled system to deal with medical emergencies," Bajpai said.

Whenever a passenger needs help, the on board staff alerts the Station where medical aid is available and the doctors who live in Railway Colonies around the Station are always there to deal with any emergency, according to the Railways Spokesperson. On May 13, Pinky Yadav, who is in her twenties, gave birth to a baby boy on board the Ahmedbad-Faizabad Shramik Special train with the help of the RPF personnel.

She got medical attention at the Kanpur Station in Uttar Pradesh, but had to be shifted to a District Hospital for treatment.

Twenty-three-year-old Ishwari Devi gave birth to a baby boy on board the Habibganj-Bilaspur migrant special train last Sunday with the help of the train staff and other women passengers.

The Railways not only provided her with the necessary medicines, but also arranged for her admission to the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences when she needed further care.

The national transporter has run around 2,800 Shramik Special trains so far and these births, which almost always leads to a lot of manic activity, are a welcome relief from the daily routine of chugging trains. While these children are born surrounded by strangers, their first cries are heard by thousands on board. A baby born on Sunday on board a special train to Uttar Pradesh was named "Lockdown Yadav."

File photo of first Shramik Special train which left from Ashokapuram Railway Sation on May 16, 2020.

Chamarajanagar, lone COVID-free district in State

Chamarajanagar, May 26 (SS &BCT)- Yesterday, Ramanagara District that was a Green Zone with no cases, reported the first COVID-19 positive case and with this, Chamarajanagar earned the distinction of becoming the only Corona-free District in Karnataka, despite contiguity with Tamil Nadu, the hotbed of positive cases.

Chamarajanagar is counted among the State's most backward districts and shares its border with Tamil Nadu that is a hotbed of COVID-19 cases. Yet, Chamarajanagar has successfully managed to keep the deadly pandemic at bay. This, despite the movement of vehicles from neighbouring Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Rigorous screening at checkposts set up on the borders has enabled Chamarajanagar to remain a Green Zone. Lockdown in the district was strictly enforced from the very first week of March. There are six checkposts across Chamarajanagar and the officials and staff subject every person entering the district to stringent medical examination. These measures have been initiated by the Chamarajanagar District Administration

Dr. M.R. Ravi, DC

led by Deputy Commissioner Dr. M.R. Ravi, Superintendent of Police Anand Kumar and Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. M.C. Ravi. Working on their orders are an army of ASHA workers, healthcare staff, Police and Panchayat-level and Booth-level officers who have surveyed lakhs of households looking for the vulnerable section.

The survey was launched on Apr. 15 and its purpose was to check for SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Infection) and ILI (Influenza-like Illness). The survey gave inputs to the administration about the community spread that was non-existent in the District.

"Our check-posts are manned by Police, Revenue Department and medical personnel and every vehicle was sanitised and the passengers screened. Even the empty trucks coming in from Kerala and Tamil Nadu to procure vegetables were thoroughly sanitised to prevent the infection from entering the district," said DC Dr. Ravi.

"Yes, our district is virus-free and this was possible with the co-operation of people, officers and elected representatives. This is not a time to bask in glory but we need to maintain the Green Zone status and that is a bigger responsibility," he added.

People of Chamarajanagar have expressed their happiness on social media through WhatsApp and Facebook. Messages comparing COVID-19 to cricket matches is widely circulated. The messages posted are, 'Chamarajanagar lifts corona cup', 'Chamarajanagar wins the green cup in COVID-19 20:20 match', 'Ee sala cup namde' and 'Not only CM and politicians, even corona fears our district' are widely circulated.

Pending works on Irwin Road widening to resume from June 1

Mysuru, May 26 (RK&KS)- The widening and development works of Irwin Road, which was stopped following imposition of lockdown, will resume from June 1.

The partial demolition of buildings on either side of Irwin Road is in progress and 80 of the 86 properties needed for the road widening from Nehru Circle to Government Ayurveda College Circle has been demolished. The works to demolish the remaining six buildings would be completed this week and the road widening works would be taken up from Monday (June 1). The road would be made a double road with box drains on either sides, footpaths and road median, said a Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) official.

The road would be banned for traffic and alternate routes would be made and an order would be passed by the City Police Commissioner in this regard soon.

More forests mean less COVID-19 impact, claims MP Forest Dept.

Is this the reason why Chamarajanagar is virus-free?

Bhopal, May 26 (UNI)- People living in greener areas with better forest cover are less prone to infections including COVID-19, says a report released by Forest Department. The report is a study of COVID-19 affected areas in Madhya Pradesh (MP) and green cover in the area.

Notably, Chamarajanagar District has the distinction in India for harbouring three tiger reserves — Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Biligiri Ranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve and the proposed Male Mahadeshwara Tiger Reserve — within its territorial limits.

The study was done by MP Forest Department to understand the role of forests in preventing the disease. For the study, percentage of forests in each district and the available area of forest per thousand people was assessed and the relation of declaring red, green and orange zones of the State was seen in relation to the spread of COVID-19.

As per findings, the map released shows that the districts of the State which have a forest area of more than 200 hectares per thousand people are generally in the Green Zone. "Districts like Betul and Chhindwara, which are connected to Maharashtra where COVID-19 attack is highest, have still controlled the effect of COVID-19 infection," the report said.

It explained that the density of forests in these districts is high, which has helped them in staying in orange zone. Both these districts are connected to the red zone districts of Maharashtra affected by COVID-19 and Hoshangabad district, a Red Zone district in Madhya Pradesh.

"Districts like Ujjain, Indore, Khargone, Bhopal, Morena, where the availability of forest cover per 1,000 people is less than 100 hectares, is in Red Zone," the report said.

The report added that many districts like Balaghat, Shahdol, Panna, Anuppur, Umaria, where large numbers of migrant labourers have returned, are in the Green Zone only. "From the available data, it seems prima facie that the immunity of citizens is relatively better in those areas where there is more availability of forests. However, more study is required in this subject," the report added.

Auto and Taxi drivers can now register under 'Seva Sindhu' App

Week-long drive to avail one-time compensation of Rs. 5,000

Mysuru, May 26 (RKB&BNR)- In order to facilitate auto and taxi drivers to register in the 'Seva Sindhu' portal or App to avail the one- time compensation of Rs.5,000 each announced by the State Government, an online registration centre has been set up at the Safe Wheels Office, Prashanth Plaza, #CH-16, 5th Cross, 4th Main Road, Saraswathipuram [Ph: 0821-4001100], in association with Bharat Informal Workers Initiative (BHIWI).

The centre, which was formally launched by MLA S.A. Ramdas, who is also the President of BHIWI, this morning, will provide assistance to the beneficiaries to register under Seva Sindhu for a week. The compensation is part of the Rs.1,610 crore relief package announced by B.S. Yediyurappa-led State Government for the benefit of those in distress due to the COVID-19-induced lockdown.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramdas said that the registration process had begun from the past two days across the State and to help the auto and taxi drivers, a week-long online registration service is provided at the Safe Wheels Office where the beneficiaries can register under 'Seva Sindhu' along with relevant documents like DL, RC,

Aadhar Card and Badge Number.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, S. Nagaraj, President of Mysuru Tourist Vehicle Drivers and Owners Welfare Association, said: "Seva Sindhu Portal has some drawbacks, for example, it will not support registration of 6-seater vehicles, and for the taxis which go on long journey, there will be two drivers and two drivers cannot register with same vehicle number under Seva Sindhu. Government should rectify such issues to facilitate registration of all the eligible beneficiaries."

Responding to this, Ramdas said that he will be discussing the issues with the Transport Minister to come out with a solution at the earliest.

Nominal taxi service to COVID Warriors: Stating that there are many people from Mysuru District Administration, Doctors, Paramedics, ASHA Workers and Police Staff, who have been working tirelessly to fight COVID-19 in Mysuru district, MLA Ramdas said that recognising such people as COVID-19 Warriors, cab service is being provided by Safe Wheels from May 25 to 31. COVID-19 Warriors can use the service to travel any place within the State by just paying the diesel cost.

Vehicle and Driver will be provided from the Safe Wheels itself and the service is on till May 31, he added.

B.S. Prashanth of Safe Wheels, who is also the President of Mysuru Travels Association, was present on the occasion.

Rain Wreaks Havoc in city

Residents chopping the branches of an uprooted tree at Saraswathipuram. Picture right shows partially uprooted tree on Geetha Road seen leaning on an apartment building.

(Continued from page 1)

Last year, the level on the same day stood at 81.59 ft., raising concerns about drinking water supply to Mysuru. Today's level stands at 92 ft.

This summer, however there may not be a water crisis as the Dam has 92 ft. storage and the Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water has already been released, said KRS officials. Thanks to pre-monsoon rainfall in the catchment areas of Kodagu, the inflow has increased and the MET Department too has forecast early monsoon.

Yesterday, the rain which began to pound city areas at about 8.45 pm, lashed for an hour causing extensive damages. More than 15 houses on the 1st, 2nd and 6th Cross on the 9th Main in Vijayanagar 2nd Stage and a few houses in Paduvarahalli were flooded and residents were seen removing rain water mixed with sewage from their houses.

Nearly 10-15 trees were uprooted at Vidyaranyapuram, Vijayanagar, Srirampura, Saraswathipuram and surrounding places damaging vehicles, snapping power lines and breaking or bending electric poles, plunging many parts of the city in darkness. A partially uprooted tree was seen leaning on an apartment building on Geetha Road near RTO (West).

While two trees were uprooted near the residence of the Deputy Commissioner on Hunsur Road, one tree each was uprooted near Basappa Memorial (BM) Hospital, Lalitha Mahal Road and in Rajivnagar. A car proceeding on Hunsur Main Road hit the road divider and toppled due to rain. Luckily, no one was injured.

Following damages to electric poles and power lines, men from Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) have taken up repair works at various places and the Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) Abhaya team has begun clearing trees fallen across the roads.

CESC personnel removing power lines from a broken electric pole at Vidyaranyapuram this morning.

The MCC personnel were clearing trees in Saraswathipuram and other places while CESC personnel were seen clearing broken electric poles from the roads this morning. Also, many residents were seen chopping the branches of fallen trees and taking them away for firewood.

24 mm rains recorded yesterday

Dr. C. Govindaraj, Professor at the Extension Education Unit of Organic Farming and Research Station at Naganahalli (OFRSN), speaking to 'Star of Mysore,' said that the city recorded 24 mm rain yesterday. 2 mm rainfall was recorded on May 23 and 10 mm on May 24.

He said that the temperature was recorded between 34 and 35 degree Celsius which would go up further and added that the rainfall was due to extensive heat and not because of any cyclone. He added that the district which witnessed scattered rainfall earlier witnessed uniform rainfall throughout yesterday. There would be rainfall for two more days, he reasoned.

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COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,626
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	5,281
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	140
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	2
Total samples tested	:	8,124
Samples found negative	:	8,032
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	92
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	254
Persons cured / discharged	:	27
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	2,283
Persons cured / discharged	:	748
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	44
Total active cases in India	:	80,722
Persons cured / discharged	:	60,490
Death toll so far in India	:	4,167

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 25. Media bulletin for May 26 not available)

Role of Yoga in enhancing immunity during tough COVID times

JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research to offer Certificate Programmes, B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Yoga

Mysuru, May 26- Stress is a constant factor in today's fast-paced life that can jeopardise our health if left unchecked. These are the times of the pandemic of Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 which has forced mankind to live in fear, anxiety causing depression.

The problem caused by the pandemic has to be faced. Yoga, which is an ancient Indian Science, will help to modulate and maintain our immune system which in turn will help to deal with the complications of Coronavirus.

Strengthening our immune system and following rules and regulations laid down by our Government is the only way to fight this pandemic as of now. Research indicates that stress can even contribute to the development of major illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, depression and obesity or exacerbate existing health issues.

There is mounting evidence that a stressful life influences a variety of physical health problems later in life which may have long-term consequences for immune dysregulation.

The influence of Yoga on stress reduction and its benefits on mental health has boosted its demand in recent years.

JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (formerly JSS University), Mysuru, is implementing Yoga in its curriculum by starting Department of Yoga from the academic year 2020-2021 which will offer Certificate Programmes, B.Sc., and M.Sc., in Yoga programmes (UGC approved).

For details log on to JSS AHER website or contact Dr. M.U. Sujan, Assistant Professor on Mob: 82174-86331 or email: sujanmu@jssuni.edu.in and Abhinay on Mob: 9980841859, according to a press release.

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.